

MNMM Fatal 2006-18

- Electrical
- July 27, 2006 (Massachusetts)
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Laborer
- 25 years old
- 2 years experience

Overview

The victim was electrocuted while using a gasoline-powered weed trimmer, equipped with a circular steel blade, to cut weeds and brush near a utility pole. The trimmer's blade severed the guy wire for the utility pole causing the wire to sag and contact a 23,000 volt energized supply conductor for the pole-mounted transformer.



Root Causes

- Standards and controls were inadequate. Management failed to inspect and verify that the guy wire was installed properly.
- The guy wire on the power pole was not provided with insulators installed in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code. The slackened guy wire contacted the energized transformer supply conductor below the provided insulator, thus energizing the wire.

Best Practices

- Ensure that guy wires from power poles are securely connected to the system ground or are provided with the proper number of insulators installed near the pole end.
- Examine the area for any potential hazards before trimming weeds and brush.